

Panel: Bodily Differences, Belonging, and Resistance in Contemporary Europe

Time and Place: **Thursday 16.11.2017 – Het Pand (Onderbergen 1-Gent) - Zaal Rector Vermeylen**

Panel Coordinator: Dr. Ladan Rahbari, Centre for Research on Culture and Gender, Ghent University, Belgium, Ladan.Rahbari@UGent.be

Lecture five:

‘Do You Plan to Stay?’ : Iranian Migrant Women’s Experiences of Hospitality and Intolerance in Belgium

By Dr. Ladan Rahbari, CRCG, UGent

Doctor in Sociology, and doctoral researcher in Gender and Diversity. I am also co-teaching in the Master programs coordinated By De. Longman and Dr. Coene.

This qualitative research focused on investigating intimate accounts and experiences of hospitality, discrimination or intolerance shared by Iranian female migrants (n=23) living in Belgium. Data suggested that stereotypical presumptions about the ‘colored’ migrant women often predicted the onset, and sometimes the course of participants’ social interactions. The participants struggled with recognition, and faced challenges in presenting their identities, sometimes having to prove they were not fitting the conventional or typical images of Middle Eastern women. The shared experiences of the respondents of this study (such as whitesplaining and isolation) reflected a general feeling of segregation that affected their perceptions of social possibilities, as well as their future life choices.